Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Yes. The petition was enquired into.

(b) Part (1) A petition was submitted to the Diwan in 1102.
(2) The petitioners were told that they have to be satisfied for the present with the existing arrangements.

(c) Vide answer to Q. 154, Appendix III, item 9, Volume II, Part 22, Budget Session of 1101.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether the petition has been disposed of ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—All that I know is that the petition is under the consideration of the Government.

President.—Not disposed of ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No.

Village Panchayats.

634. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table a statement with the following information:—

(a) the total number of Village Panchayats in the State in 1104 ;

(b) the total number of members in the Village Panchayats and of these how many are caste-Hindus, non-caste-Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Jews, and of these how many are elected and nominated members;

(c) the names of villages under each Village Panchayat;

(d) how many villages are neither under the Village Panchayat and the Municipalities;

(e) the names of the Village Panchayats in which there are no representatives of non-caste-Hindus;

(f) the names of all Village Panchayats;

(g) the names of the members on each Village Panchayat together with the names of villages which the elected members represent; and of the elected members and also of nominated members how many are caste-Hindus, non-caste-Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Jews ;

(h) the amount allotted annually for each Panchayat in the last five years ;

(i) the amount actually spent yearly by each Village Panchayat in the last five years ;

(j) the names of Panchayats whose allotments lapsed in any of the last five years, stating, in the case of lapses, the amount lapsed ; the year in which the amount lapsed and the reason for the lapsing of the amount;

(k) in the case of lapses, whether any explanation has been taken from the Panchayats which, by their own fault or

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

otherwise, have brought about the lapses, and if so, whether such explanations will be placed on the Table;

(l) the number of cases in which such explanations have not been called for ;

(m) the average yearly allotment for a Village Panchayat in the last 5 years ;

(n) the rules governing the nomination of members to Village Panchayats;

(o) the aim and object of having nomination to Village Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) 86.

(b) The total number of Panchayatdars is 544, of these the post of 56 are vacant.

Of the remaining 488,	*Elected.*	*Nominated.*
Caste-Hindus	146	102
Non. Do	40	44
Christians	100	34
Muslims	15	7
	301	187

(c) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(d) One village—Kunnamkulam.

(e) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(f) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(g) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(h) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(i) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(j) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(k) The lapses were due to several causes such as non-receipt of proposals from the Panchayats, non-completion of works in time, non-receipt of completion bills in time, etc. etc., Explanations have not been called for from the Village Panchayats.

(l) Vide answer to part (k) above.

(m) A statement is placed on the Council Table.

(n) Notification dated 8th April 1914 published on page 767 of Cochin Government Gazette, dated 6th Medam 1089, as amended by notification dated 27th August 1914 published on page 11 of Gazette, dated 13th Chingam 1090, and notification dated 17th August 1921 published on page 3 of Gazette, dated 4th Chingam 1097.

(o) To promote the efficiency of Panchayat administration.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—With reference to the answer to sub-division (k), may I know why explanations have not been called for from the Village Panchayats?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. I. Raman Menon. — Well, they are non-official workers; it is not right to put pressure on them.

President.—You mean that, since they are non-official workers they cannot be dealt with as ordinary officers of Government.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are not the Panchayats under the supervision and control of the Government ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then what is the objection to call for reports ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is exactly what I said. There is a limit to which we can put pressure upon these people.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What limit the Government have travelled in that respect ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.— A reasonable limit.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have not the Panchayats been informed that lapses should not occur in future ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When was it ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—On many occasions, in any number of cases.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—And yet there are lapses and yet what steps have been taken by the Government ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.— That particular constitution which does not utilise the allotments for the purposes for which they are allotted in time, that constitution of the Panchayat is changed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—That Panchayat also does the same thing. This has been going on for some years and yet nothing is done. Will the Government see that works are not put a stop to year after year and thus heavy sums are allowed to lapse?

President.—Do you not insist on them to utilise the amount allotted to them in full ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes. And yet lapses occur. And they are due to, as stated in the answer, non-receipt of proposals from the Panchayats, non-completion of works in time, etc.

President.—I suppose they realise that the amount allotted should be utilised in that year itself. Then why don't you take steps in that direction to see that the amounts are fully utilised ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Of course, it is a general question.

President.—What I mean to say is that the Panchayats must be made to feel that the amounts should not be allowed to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

lapse and they must be made to feel their sense of responsibility and you should see that they utilise the whole amount. This is a contribution made by the Government and it is their duty to see that the amount is utilised.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We are putting sufficient pressure on the Panchayats and we are also taking some precautions to avoid lapses.

President.—I suppose more pressure could not be put on them?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I do not think so.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the total amount that lapsed in the last year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Notice.

Prohibition of a road in Mukundapuram Taluk for use by the non-caste-Hindus.

635. Mr. K. Ayyappan.—(1) Have the Governmen received any petition praying to prohibit certain classes of His Highness' subjects, such as Ezhuvas, Pulayas, Kammalans, Christians, Muslims, etc., from using a part of the road lying north of the Thottippal Bhagavati temple, Thottippal Village, Mukundapuram Taluk;

(2) have the Government also received any petitions from those classes protesting against the above referred petitions;

(3) when were the petitions and protest petitions received;

(4) have the Government ordered any enquiry on the petitions and protest petitions;

(5) will the Government be pleased to place on the Table the reports, if any, of the various revenue officers who made the enquiry;

(6) will the Government be pleased to state whether the enquiry was open and if not will they order an open fresh enquiry;

(7) if the enquiry is complete, will the Government be pleased to state what order they have passed in the matter and place all the important papers connected with it on the Table;

(8) (a) will the Government be pleased to state whether there were any petitions presented to the Second-class Magistrate of Mukundapuram and the District Magistrate of Cochin, on or about 14th Mithunam 1102 and 26th Kumbham 1103 respectively, for prohibiting the said classes of people from using the said road and if so what orders were passed on them;

(b) will the Government be pleased to place those orders on the Table;

(9) will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the said road is a *poramboke*;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly